

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA (D/GG)

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I. Services of D/GG.

A. Location.

The Geography Division of the Geographic Area (D/GG) is located in Building 11. The office of the Chief of D/GG is in Room 206.

B. Services.

D/GG is a research group that provides support to various components of CIA and other IAC agencies in the form of classified intelligence reports in the fields of physical, economic, and cultural geography. These reports vary considerably in scope, treatment, and format, ranging from brief, highly specialized contributions to intelligence studies that are disseminated only to the requester to comprehensive formal intelligence studies that are published and disseminated to the IAC community.

In addition to research support, D/GG answers requests for two kinds of information: information on international and internal administrative boundaries (this service is performed in consultation with the Department of State) ~~and~~ recommendations of the best maps that are available for a given problem, and questions concerning the interpretation of maps -- all other questions on maps are outside of the province of D/GG and should be referred

either to the Map Library Division (D/GL) or to the Cartography Division (D/GC). Queries on place names should be referred to D/GL.

C. Use of Services.

Proposed support projects should be discussed directly with the appropriate Branch Chief in D/GG, if it is determined that the support project will require more than 20 hours to complete, the Branch Chief will advise the requester to submit a written requirement through the Chief, Geographic Research. Analysts in the Economic Research Area (ERA), CIA/ORR, should obtain the approval of their Branch Chiefs before discussing proposed support projects with D/GG.

II. Description of the Intelligence Reports Produced by D/GG.

D/GG produces intelligence reports in the fields of physical, economic, and cultural geography. The majority of the reports produced include at least one map prepared especially for the report by D/GG; in addition, other supplementary material, such as, general maps, ground and aerial photography, and photo mosaics is included. About four-fifths of the total number of intelligence reports produced by D/GG are requested by components of CIA and the other IAC agencies, particularly the Department of the

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Contributions to the National Intelligence Survey Program (NIS), Studies in Direct Support of Clandestine Operations, Studies of USSR Capabilities and Activities in Mapping, Geodesy, and Gravimetry.

A. Evasion Studies.

D/GG produces three kinds of evasion studies for the Defense Department: Evasion Geographies, Briefs on Escape Routes, and Combat Crew Briefs.

1. Evasion Geographies.

Evasion Geographies are comprehensive studies prepared for the purpose of providing evasion data for use in the initial phase of a hot war. These studies include all of the pertinent details on the physical and cultural geography of a particular country that are necessary to enable an evader to make his way out of the country with a minimum exposure to risk or danger. At present the primary emphasis is on the countries in the Soviet Bloc or the countries that are peripheral to the Bloc. Within the ~~next~~ two years, it is expected that studies will have been completed on both peripheral and Bloc countries.

The Evasion Geographies are prepared in response to requests

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from the Department of the Air Force. About eight of these studies are produced and published annually by D/GG. Effective coordination of the entire USAF-CIA evasion geography research program is accomplished by D/GG acting as a ⁹quasi-exective office and assuming responsibility for the substantive accuracy and ^{the} publication of all evasion geography studies done for the Department of the Air Force. In fulfillment of this coordination responsibility, a maximum of eight additional studies are published annually, based on material provided by (1) the Arctic, Desert, Tropic Information Center, Air University, Maxwell Field, Alabama; (2) the Far East Air Command, USAF; and the Commander in Chief, Pacific, USN (CINPAC). The studies are disseminated within CIA, as well as to the Air Force and other Defense agencies.

2. Briefs on Escape Routes.

Briefs on Escape Routes are generalized descriptions of recommended escape routes that are prepared in response to requests from the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy. These briefs, prepared on the peripheral areas of the USSR, are contributions to intelligence studies that are prepared by the Departments of the Air Force and the

Navy. Basic source material for these briefs are the most detailed and

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largest scale maps that are available, particularly those produced by the country under consideration in its native language; these are procured primarily from ~~the Map Library Division of the Geographic Area (D/GL)~~ ^{D/GL.}

3. Combat Crew Briefs.

Combat Crew Briefs are descriptions of selected safe areas and routes thereto. The safe areas are places of temporary refuge for downed crewmen. These briefs are prepared for the Departments of the Air Force and the Navy. The briefs usually are based on the same kind of source material that is used in the Evasion Geographies and the Briefs on Escape Routes.

B. Contributions to the National Intelligence Survey Program (NIS).

D/GG's contributions to the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) involves both a production and a coordinating responsibility. Parts (economic, sociological, ^{and} political) of Chapter IX are prepared by the regional branches of D/GG and, in addition, other parts of Chapter IX and Section 19 are received from the Army Map Service, the Army Signal Corps Intelligence Agency, the USAF Air Weather Service, the USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, the Military Geology Branch, USGS, the Navy Hydrographic Office, and the Navy Photographic Interpretation Center. The NIS sections received from other

agencies are integrated with the NIS sections that are prepared within D/GG.

The total NIS contribution is received and edited and then submitted to the Office of Basic Intelligence (CIA/OBI), which is responsible for the final coordination and publication of the entire NIS program.

C. Studies Produced Under D/GG's Self-Initiated Research Program.

The self-initiated research program of D/GG is one of the most important segments of the total program, although it accounts for only a small portion of the total production of D/GG. There are generally three kinds of studies produced under this program: (1) studies, identifying potential trouble spots, focusing attention on significant physical, cultural, and geographic conditions that make the area particularly vulnerable to Communist subversion or infiltration. — a good example of such a study is the "Regional Analysis of Northeast Thailand" (See paragraph ⁴ below); (2) basic geographic studies on areas on which comprehensive geographic studies do not exist; and (3) geographic studies which introduce a new analytical approach to a problem area, such as, the regional analysis of Communist China. [REDACTED]

The following intelligence reports are typical of those produced

under the self-initiated program:

1. Geographic Intelligence Review.

The Geographic Intelligence Review is a periodical which provides D/GG with a medium for disseminating geographic and geophysical intelligence to the intelligence community. It is published about eight times annually. The following kinds of articles are included in this periodical: (1) brief articles presenting the results of research on areas of current or potential intelligence interest, (2) interpretations of recent world-wide developments in the fields of physical, economic, and cultural geography, (3) information on recent developments in mapping programs and evaluations of recent CIA acquisitions of maps and mapping materials, and (4) information on recent changes or modifications in international and administrative boundaries. All producing units in D/GG prepare contributions for this periodical.

2. Soviet Arctic.

The USSR Branch is preparing a comprehensive study, "The Soviet Arctic," that presents the general economic and physical geography of the Soviet Arctic, including data on terrain, climate, population and settlement, transportation, and economic activity. The significant military aspects of

the area are also included in this study. The broad scope of the study is designed to provide the intelligence community with basic information on the Soviet Arctic. The study is being done in cooperation with ERA and is scheduled for completion by the end of FY 1956. ✓

3. Soviet New Lands.

The USSR Branch has completed a ^{report}~~study~~, "Geographic Analysis of the Soviet New Lands Program" (G-13), which is an initial intelligence study presenting a detailed examination of the basic geographic factors, such as, climate and soils that may influence the success of the Soviet new lands program. The study was done in cooperation with ERA and will provide ERA with basic data for use on its forthcoming study on the same subject. ✓

4. Regional Analysis of Northeast Thailand.

The Far East Branch is preparing a regional analysis of Northeast Thailand, this economically depressed area has political and sociological aspects that make it a potential trouble spot and, therefore, fertile ground for Communist infiltration and subversion. This vulnerability is very significant in view of the fact that Thailand is presently one of the most loyal US allies in Southeast Asia. This study analyzes pertinent physical, economic, and cultural geographic factors bearing on the stability and vulnerability of the area.

D. Studies in Direct Support of Clandestine Operations.

D/GG prepares studies in direct support of clandestine operational planning. These studies are analyses of selected regions and localities within Communist countries, detailed studies of international boundary zones along the Iron Curtain, target studies, route studies, urban area analyses, and stay-behind area analyses. These studies are prepared only for the requester and are usually not disseminated,

~~However,~~ some of the studies are released eventually to the Department of the Air Force, particularly to the Strategic Air Command (SAC).

E. Studies on USSR Capabilities and Activities in Mapping, Geodesy, and Gravimetry.

The Staff on Soviet Mapping is responsible for the study of USSR capabilities and activities in the fields of mapping, geodesy, and gravimetry, particularly as they relate to Soviet capabilities in surveying and mapping for the support of Soviet requirements in the world-wide positioning of targets for missile operation.

Through participation in the International Geophysical Year (IGY) program, the USSR will be able to broaden significantly its capability to collect, on a world-wide basis, physical environmental data that are relevant to Soviet political, military, and economic interests. In addition, Soviet participation in Antarctica for the IGY poses the problem of possible Soviet political, economic, and geographic expansion which may transform ^{this} area into a potential trouble spot. A comprehensive study has been published on this subject entitled, "Soviet Exploration and Research in the Antarctic" (GR-84); a supplementary report of the same title has also been issued (GR-84.1).

Research and analysis of Soviet capabilities in geodesy and cartography, internal and foreign, have been summarized in D/GG studies on Soviet capabilities in geodesy and cartography prepared as contributions to NIE 11-6-54 and NIE 11-5-56, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in the Guided Missile Field." In addition, information on Soviet activities in physical environmental research is reflected in the formulation of intelligence collection guides and requirements for Soviet physical environmental data needed for US defense purposes.

D/GG is represented on a Working Group of the Operations Coordinating Board (OCB) which prepares intelligence studies and memoranda on Soviet activities and intentions in the Antarctic, particularly as they relate to US operations and plans.


III. Source Material Used by D/GG in the Production of Intelligence Reports.


The source material used by D/GG in the production of intelligence reports can be divided into ^{four} ~~two~~ general categories: raw and finished intelligence, unclassified foreign and domestic geographic literature, maps, and photography.

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A. Raw and Finished Intelligence Materials.

The wide variety of raw and finished intelligence materials that are generally disseminated to the intelligence analysts in the IAC agencies provide important source material for researchers in D/GG. The Near East-Africa Branch and the Far East Branch depend heavily on the raw intelligence since the finished intelligence produced on their assigned areas is inadequate.

Finished intelligence materials, such as, the NIS's, the Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Surveys (JANIS's),  25X1C8a

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 also provide valuable background material.

B. Unclassified Foreign and Domestic Geographic Literature.

Each of the six regional branches of D/GG and the Staff on Soviet Mapping maintains a working collection of unclassified foreign and domestic geographic literature that provides basic data for use in intelligence research. Much of this material is selected from bibliographies and indexes and ordered by the Branches.

The Near East-Africa collection is primarily English and European language material and comprises a variety of individual books, pamphlets, and periodicals. The Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and Western Hemisphere

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Branches have collections of periodicals, selected monographs, books, and statistical works in English and the languages of their respective areas.

Many of these sources are purely geographic, but there are also sources in related fields, such as, forestry, botany, and demography. Appropriate

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volumes of the

Handbooks are held by several Branches.

C. Maps.

Maps are an essential source material for geographers. Each branch in D/GG maintains a working collection of regional and subject maps that are pertinent to its assigned areas; these maps are obtained from ^{D/GL.} ~~the Map Library (D/GL)~~. Additional maps are also obtained from D/GL as they are needed.

D. Photography.

Aerial and ground photos and photo mosaics are important source material. No photographic collections are maintained in D/GG, ^{all}

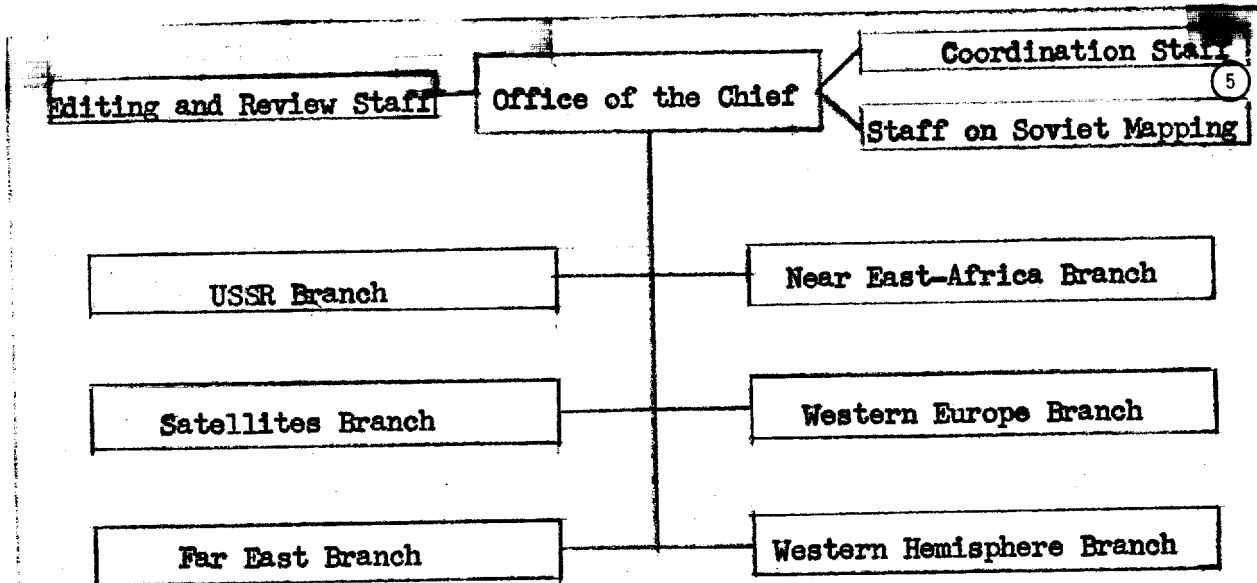
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photography is obtained from the OCR, Graphic Register (OCR/GR) as it is needed. A wide variety of data is obtained from photography, such as, terrain data, characteristics of highways or railways, characteristics of dwellings and regional dress, data on snow conditions, such as, the depths of snow in mountain passes at different times of the year, and adequate detail on vegetative cover that is not generally provided by existing maps. The data derived from photography may be original or it may be used to supplement, confirm, or refute intelligence data derived from other sources. Photography also provides valuable graphic material for inclusion in intelligence reports. Copies of pertinent photos, ground and aerial, and photo mosaics are included in the majority of the reports produced by D/GG.

IV. Organization of D/GG.

D/GG has approximately 50 persons on board and is sub-divided into six regional branches and three staffs as is indicated in the organization chart below:

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NOTE: The figures represent the number of personnel on board.

The six regional branches are responsible for preparing intelligence reports in the field of physical, economic, and cultural geography (See Section II, paragraphs A-E). The Coordination Staff is responsible for

- (1) coordinating the NIS contributions prepared by the regional branches of D/GG with the contributions received from other government agencies,
- (2) ~~managing the contributions~~ review and edit the NIS contributions, and
- (3) preparing the NIS contributions in final form for transmittal to the

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Office of Basic Intelligence (OBI). The Staff on Soviet Mapping is responsible for studying the capabilities and activities of the USSR in the fields of mapping, geodesy, and gravimetry; producing reports on this problem; and providing support to other components of CIA and ^{the} other IAC agencies. The Editing and Review Staff is responsible for the editing and review of reports produced by D/GG.

The geographic coverage of each regional branch in D/GG is illustrated in the map following page .

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